



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ▪ CITY OF BINGHAMTON

William Berg, City Council President
Jeremy Pelletier, City Clerk

MINUTES

City Council Business Meeting
Council Chambers, 38 Hawley Street, Binghamton, N.Y.
Wednesday March 18, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Called to order by Council President Berg at 6:30pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Berg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jerry Motsavage, Joseph Mihalko, Teri Rennia, Lea Webb, Chris Papastrat, John Matzo, Bill Berg

Absent: None

Also in attendance: Jeremy Pelletier, City Clerk; Tito Martinez, Deputy City Clerk; Kenneth J. Frank, Corporation Counsel

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from the Business Meeting held Wednesday March 4, 2015.

Moved by Rennia, seconded by Webb.

Voice vote, none opposed.

Motion to approve the minutes from the Special Business Meeting held on Wednesday March 11, 2015.

Moved by Rennia, seconded by Webb.

Voice vote, none opposed.

Motion to approve the minutes from the Municipal & Public Affairs Committee meeting held on Monday March 16, 2015.

Moved by Rennia, seconded by Webb.

Voice vote, none opposed.

RECOGNITIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

City Clerk Pelletier read a Proclamation for John W. Fraser upon the occasion of his retirement.

City Clerk Pelletier read a Proclamation for Lloyd F. Fletcher upon the occasion of his retirement.

City Clerk Pelletier read a Proclamation for Brian D. Hill upon the occasion of his retirement.

PUBLIC COMMENT/COMMUNICATIONS

Carol Coppens, John Solak, Raphael Tombasco, Sharon Nieminski, Matthew Yuden, Sean Massey, Dara Silberstein, Aviva Firenden, Corey Ray, Salka Valerio, Serena Vieira, Debra Hogan,¹ Michael Treiman,² MaryRose Griffin,³ Danette Koanui,⁴ Andrew Davis,⁵ Keith Twitchell,⁶ Roger Weston,⁷ Sherry Eaton,⁸ Betty Tuininga,⁹ Michele Braco,¹⁰ Peg Johnston

¹ Submitted on March 18, 2015 - 3:18pm Details:

To Jeremy Pelletier

Subject To be read to City Council Business mtg 3-18

Message



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ▪ CITY OF BINGHAMTON

William Berg, City Council President

Jeremy Pelletier, City Clerk

My name is Michael Treiman, I am a white male and Binghamton resident of 30 years. I currently reside at 29 William St. in Binghamton with my wife and two children. I have been made aware that there is legislation banning racial profiling and mandating cultural diversity training for BPD. I want to urge City Council to pass this legislation as a standing law in Binghamton. We need to show a commitment to this matter and be a leader in upstate NY. Let it be known that I am aware there is disproportionate treatment of minorities in our community by the police and I have seen it first hand. As a matter of fact, statistically we pull over and search more Black residents than they had been in Ferguson which is alarming to say the least. But, rather than beat the civil rights drum, I want to appeal to your sense of professionalism. I have seen and been the victim of Binghamton's failing economy since I was transplanted here as a child in 1984. We now have a booming economic engine with Binghamton University and one of its strong suits is that it is an extremely culturally diverse institution and attracts students from many states and countries. Should we avoid passing this legislation that holds law enforcement accountable for modernized and culturally competent policing we negligently invite a tragedy like those we've seen across the country in recent months. I should not have to tell you that if we have a police shooting scandal here, we will absolutely jeopardize the integrity of one of the only economic engines we have left in Binghamton. We need real laws to hold those accountable who would act imprudently on behalf of law enforcement in order to secure Binghamton's reputation as a culturally diverse and welcoming City.

² Name: MaryRose Griffin

Comment: This \$350,000 parking lot IS NOT THE SOLUTION!

If parking is the issue (and I don't believe it is) fix the parking ramps.

If homeless people in downtown is the issue, don't just make them "move on" to a different spot, focus on them as fellow human beings, address their needs.

³ Name: Danette Koanui

Email: missdanette@LTILL222

Comment: This plan is a terrible waste of money.

⁴ Name: Andrew Davis

Comment: Very few people seem to think building a parking lot in place of the metro center is a good idea. Why do it? Is this logical in any way? Logistically and economically it's absurd. It has now come out that the true motivation behind this plan may be tied to the presence of homeless and mentally ill individuals bothering downtown businesses. Everyone can agree, I'm sure, that a solution should be sought for this issue, but to initiate a costly infrastructure overhaul in the heart of downtown to deal with the problem under the cloak of addressing a supposed 'parking crisis' is not only incredibly irresponsible it's not really much of a solution at all. Sometimes we try to fix one thing, but end up creating more problems. In particular I'm referring to the ongoing revitalization of Binghamton. I believe another parking garage in downtown would only hurt Binghamton's cultural integrity, something I believe we should be doing all we can to preserve and promote. Please think long term. Together I'm sure we can find a more creative and viable solution.

⁵ Name: Keith Twitchell

Comment: I agree that spending \$350,000-500,000 for 10 parking spots is a very poor decision on our city's part. The money could be used for many other projects to better our downtown area. I totally oppose this parking project. 10 parking spots for that amount of money is ridiculous. Please reconsider and make the right decision for the people of Binghamton.



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ▪ CITY OF BINGHAMTON

William Berg, City Council President
Jeremy Pelletier, City Clerk

⁶ Name: Roger Weston

Comment: Downtown Binghamton does not need to rip up Washington Street and put in more parking spaces. There are sufficient spaces downtown. This should remain a space that can be enjoyed by visitors to downtown. Plant some trees and flowers, picnic benches, place for entertainment. You are being very short sighted. If the issue is the "derelicts, homeless and panhandlers" then this is a morally wrong way to address the issue.

⁷ Name: Sherry Eaton

Comment: No to parking. Realize the Blueprint Binghamton Plan. Make it a beautiful common area like Parlor City Commons.

⁸ Name: Betty Tuininga

Comment: I think there has to be a more economically feasible method of both serving the downtown businesses and providing shelter and adequate living space for these needy Binghamton residents. Handling this in a humanitarian manner would certainly look better on everyones political record! Not spending huge amounts of money would please the taxpayers!

⁹ Name: Michele Braco

Comment: Please don't destroy this beautiful public space

¹⁰ Name: pegjohnston

Comment: I am against spending money for 10 parking spaces.

City Clerk Jeremy Pelletier noted that additional communications were received from Kate Patchett, Ann Lahr, and Amanda Maine. These individuals are not city residents and their emails were not read into the record, but will be attached to the permanent minutes.

SECOND READING LEGISLATION

Introductory Resolution 15-18. Considered in Finance, Chair: Motsavage

A Resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement with YWCA for use of FY 40 ESG funding in an amount not to exceed \$34,205.25

Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Matzo.

Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Resolution 15-24. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Rennie, Webb, Papastrat, Matzo, Berg

Nays: None

Introductory Resolution 15-19. Considered in Finance, Chair: Motsavage

A Resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement with Catholic Charities for use of FY 40 ESG funding in an amount not to exceed \$42,106.25

Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Matzo.

Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Resolution 15-25. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Rennie, Webb, Papastrat, Matzo, Berg

Nays: None



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ▪ CITY OF BINGHAMTON

William Berg, City Council President
Jeremy Pelletier, City Clerk

Introductory Resolution 15-20. Considered in Finance, Chair: Motsavage

A Resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement with Family Enrichment Network for use of FY 40 ESG funding in an amount not to exceed \$47,000.25

Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Webb.

Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Resolution 15-26. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Rennia, Webb, Papastrat, Matzo, Berg

Nays: None

Introductory Resolution 15-21. Considered in Finance, Chair: Motsavage

A Resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement with Volunteers of America for use of FY 40 ESG funding in an amount not to exceed \$11,712.25

Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Webb.

Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Resolution 15-27. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Rennia, Webb, Papastrat, Matzo, Berg

Nays: None

FIRST READING LEGISLATION

Introductory Ordinance 15-14. Considered in Finance, Chair: Motsavage

An Ordinance to amend the 2014 Joint Sewage Treatment Plant budget to recognize a settlement and establish a reserve for media replacement

Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Webb.

Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Ordinance 15-14. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Rennia, Webb, Papastrat, Matzo, Berg

Nays: None

Introductory Ordinance 15-15. Considered in Finance, Chair: Motsavage

An Ordinance amending the 2015 budget establishing and funding a capital line for emergency repair, equipment and supplies for the water department

Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Webb.

Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Ordinance 15-15. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Rennia, Webb, Papastrat, Matzo, Berg

Nays: None

Introductory Ordinance 15-16. Considered in Finance, Chair: Motsavage

An Ordinance authorizing adjustments to water bills for property owners that lost water or were asked to run water

1. Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Webb.
2. Motion to hold legislation.

Moved by Rennia, seconded by Webb.

Item held.

Introductory Ordinance 15-17. Considered in Finance, Chair: Motsavage

An Ordinance authorizing various transfers in the 2014 Joint Sewage Treatment Plant budget to pay for legal services

Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Webb.

Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Ordinance 15-16. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Rennia, Webb, Papastrat, Matzo, Berg



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ▪ CITY OF BINGHAMTON

William Berg, City Council President

Jeremy Pelletier, City Clerk

Nays: None

Introductory Resolution 15-28. Considered in Finance, Chair: Motsavage

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with NYSDOT for the replacement of Traffic Signal No. 50 at the Intersection of North Shore Drive and NYS RT 363 at the Exchange St. Bridge

1. Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Webb.
2. Motion to insert “and be it further Resolved that the replacement of the Traffic Signal No. 50 at the intersection of North Short Drive and NYS RT 363 at the Exchange St. Bridge will not begin until the Exchange Street Bridge reconstruction project is completed”.

Moved by Rennia, seconded Webb.

Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Rennia, Webb, Papastrat, Matzo

Nays: Berg

3. Motion to approve legislation as amended.

Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Webb.

Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Resolution 15-30. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Rennia, Webb, Papastrat, Matzo, Berg

Nays: None

Note: The Mayor vetoed the legislation on March 23rd. City Council reconsidered the legislation at the April 8th Business Meeting. City Council voted to remove the last “RESOLVED” from the legislation and it was signed by the Mayor on April 9th.

Introductory Resolution 15-29. Considered in Finance, Chair: Motsavage

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with NYS Division of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for replacing the generator at the Frederick Street Pump Station

Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Webb.

Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Resolution 15-28. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Rennia, Webb, Papastrat, Matzo, Berg

Nays: None

Introductory Resolution 15-30. Considered in Finance, Chair: Motsavage

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Johnson Controls Inc. to develop an energy savings performance contract

Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by .

Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Resolution 15-29. (Vote 6-1)

Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Webb, Papastrat, Matzo, Berg

Nays: Rennia

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL

Mihalko, Rennia, Matzo, Papastrat, Motsavage, Webb, Berg

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:38pm.

Moved by Matzo, seconded by Webb.

Voice vote, none opposed.